

Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2009

The Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) is an independent body providing feedback to Metro Transit on the accessible transportation services it operates within the Halifax Regional Municipality. The ATAC Committee is voted in by the users of the service. This Committee then votes in a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Sub Committees. There is also a Member at Large appointed for a term of six months at which time the Committee decides whether to vote another member to this position. This year Terry Cousineau was voted into this position and was always available to do any task required. The major task of the Committee is to promote and to ensure that disabled persons and their interface with transportation services are as seamless and congenial as possible.

During the 2008-2009 year, we were faced with many changes. Larry Hilton, Supervisor for Access-a-Bus accepted another position within HRM and was replaced with Pat Meagher. Gary Russell, past Chairperson and Lynn Demont were not eligible for re-election this year under the rules of the Committee. Councillor Gary Meade was replaced with Councillor Jerry Blumenthal as our representative from City Council.

Being voted Chairperson of the ATAC Committee came as a surprise to me but I feel we have formed a great team and have dealt with many issues over the past year. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their hard work and dedication with special thanks to Todd Hacquoil. His knowledge and leadership skills have proven to be invaluable to this Committee and he always keeps me “in line”. Thanks also to Pat Meagher and Terri Zinck for their continued support to this Committee as well as Jim Leadon, our ATU representative.

I have been rewarded with a great group of people who were voted to this Committee and each and every one has contributed their time and effort to work together to do the job required of them by the disabled community. They are not only great team members, I consider them my friends. They are wonderful people who deserve a great hand. Last but not least, thanks to the office staff in scheduling and dispatch and the Access-A-Bus operators for their continued support to the Access-A-Bus clients.

Highlights and Accomplishments of ATAC for the year 2008-2009

- A. The number of clients using Access-A-Bus is approximately 1500.**
- B. Promoting of HRM Call Centre 490-4000 for any comments, complaints/compliments.**
- C. Two new ALF Routes introduced in November 2008, Route 89 Bedford servicing the Bedford/Sackville area and Route 19 servicing the West End Mall to Spryfield area.**
- D. Very successful Access-A-Bus BBQ held August 9, 2008 at the Halifax Forum. Under the leadership of Cathy Cranidge, her committee and volunteers, this event was enjoyed by all.**
- E. Good progress being made by Metro Transit Sub-Committee reviewing the eligibility criteria and registration process for Access-A-Bus. It is expected that recommendations will be presented soon.**
- F. Installation of security cameras on Access-A-Bus expected to be complete by June 2009.**
- G. Construction of new Dartmouth Bridge Bus Terminal has now been approved and is expected to be complete by the Fall of this year. This Terminal will now be wheelchair accessible.**
- H. Training program developed for new conventional operators on the proper tie down of wheelchairs on Low Floor Buses.**

Future Objectives for 2009 - 2010

- A. Updated Website, more user-friendly.**
- B. Posting of Information Signs on Access-A-Bus regarding upcoming events, etc.**
- C. Development of new Employee Appreciation Award to replace the Lloyd Samson Award.**
- D. More training and education encouraging the use of Low Floor Buses.**

In closing, I would like to say that I have enjoyed serving as Chairperson of this Committee and would once again like to thank all the people who have helped over the past year to serve the disabled community.

Thanks to all,

Fred Bishop

**Fred Bishop
Chairperson
Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee**

2008 – 2009 Committee Members

Fred Bishop, Chairperson

Cathy Cranidge, Vice-Chairperson

Gail Vaughan, Secretary

Linda Pottie

Joann Walsh

Roy LeBlanc

Terry Cousineau

Bill Moffatt

Todd Hacquoil

Murray Holman

Gwen Maclachlan

Donald Mullins

Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, HRM Liaison

Pat Meagher, Superintendent, Special Services

Jim Leadon, ATU Representative

Terri Zinck, Administrative Support, Access-A-Bus